

Dear FRIENDS,

We are already building another calendar of exciting worthwhile programs sponsored by FRIENDS in the New Year. As 2010 ends, I would like to give thanks and recognition to those whose generosity and energy provided a record year of memorable programs and events.

In January the Wilson Reads committee began our calendar with two Alzheimer's focused programs, a presentation of the novel, STILL ALICE, and a panel discussion of The Many Faces of Alzheimer's. Both were well attended and appreciated. Thank you, Lisa Anderson, and the entire committee.

Deborah Webb connected with Fred Chappell and arranged a program with him as presenter in April. Jane Wood gave an introduction of Fred opening an evening of fun and laughter as he chose to read a hilarious Halloween short story. Thank you, Deborah and Jane.

Author Amanda Lamb made a return appearance at WCPL in May with a presentation of her latest true crime work, EVIL NEXT DOOR: THE UNTOLD STORIES OF A KILLER UNDONE BY DNA. Her fans eagerly await her next book.

Thanks to its faithful benefactors, the Children's Summer Reading Program was the best ever. Mary Lou Rakow, Ellen Russell, and Peggy Lamm made history as prize winners in the first ever Summer Reading Program for Adults. Congratulations!

Late in August, Jay Barnes, hurricane historian, brought back memories with photos of the results of Hurricane Hazel to familiar areas of North Carolina. We thank the Wilson County Historical Association for partnering with us for that great, very enthusiastically attended program.

At the invitation of Genny Etheridge, Rock Kershaw, art historian, joined us for an entertaining evening in September speaking of the life and work of Louis Orr, and giving insight to his etchings on display in the Assembly Room of WCPL. Thank you, Genny.

Our Annual Banquet in early October featured Suzy Barile, author of UNDAUNTED HEART: THE TRUE STORY OF A SOUTHERN BELLE AND A YANKEE GENERAL. Thank you, banquet sponsors, for your contribution to a successful occasion.

ANTHONY & TABB, P.A., MR. & MRS. DALE C. BONE, MR. & MRS. S. EARL BOYKIN, MR. & MRS. MARVIN COGHILL, MR. & MRS. NEILL CONNOR, MR. & MRS. RALPH DAIL, MR. & MRS. EDWARD ETHRIDGE, MR. & MRS. RICHARD HERRING, DR. & MRS. THOMAS HOOPER, DR. & MRS. MARK C. MATTHEWS, MRS. BETTY RAY MCCAIN, MR. & MRS. PERRY MORRISON, SUSAN NEALEN & BOB REARDON, MR. & MRS. CHARLES RAKOW, MR. & MRS. RANDOLPH SESSOMS, DR. & MRS. ROBERT STONE, and SARAH WARDEN & DR. MICHAEL KUSHNER.

Throughout Fall, programs included presentations by Dr. Rebecca Godwin, Chair of Barton College Department of English; Marianne Gingher, UNC-CH English Professor; Nick Graham, Director of the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, UNC-CH; and Scott Mason, WRAL-TV Reporter/Journalist. Again, thank you, Deborah Webb for putting together a program calendar with an enormous span of interest and diversity.

Debbie Phillips and the Hospitality committee coordinated refreshments for our programs. Thank you, Debbie.

Bob Wicker served as photographer and audio technician for the programs. Thank you, Bob.

Thank you for responding to our membership drive with dollars to help support programs and events that make our Wilson County Public Library a great place for lifelong learners. We can look forward to a new year full of enriching programs. The first one happens immediately following our Annual Meeting on January 20. Please attend and bring a new friend or two.

With best wishes for health, peace and joy in 2011,

Sue Dail, President

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FRIENDS
of the Wilson County Public Library

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NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER, 2010



Heritagequest is now available through NCLIVE. Also available are articles from hundreds of newspapers and magazines, and much more. Call the reference desk for details, and visit www.NCLIVE.org. www.wcplib.com

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*Please join the
Board of Directors
for a Gathering of Friends of the
Wilson County Public Library*

ANNUAL MEETING AND SOCIAL

Thursday, January 20, 2011

6:30 pm

Assembly Room of the Library

Please use the Jackson Street entrance

Enjoy a drawing for door prizes

*Wilson Reads 2011 program
immediately following at 7:00 pm*

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Wilson County Public Library on Tour

The Wilson County Public Library was included as a tour site on the 2010 Christmas Tour of Old & Historic Homes sponsored by the City of Wilson's Historic Preservation Commission. Following is an excerpt from the tour brochure providing information about the library from early times to the present.

In 1899, when libraries were a rarity and far from being the integral part of everyday life that they are today, a group of Wilsonians organized the Wilson Library Association. Technology and the advancement of knowledge have dramatically changed the face of libraries in the past century. The Association's first library, the forerunner of our present library system, was located at 100 W. Nash, but lasted only a short time. The Woman's Club reopened the library in 1921 in their club building on Pine Street. Books were taken out of storage, and the ladies sponsored book showers, subscription fees, auction sales, and received cash donations. The Business and Professional Women's Club, the American Legion, the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), and other civic organizations added to the collection. Volunteer librarians operated the library until several civic-minded ladies gave monthly donations to hire a librarian. In 1923, this library was moved to the second floor of Woolworth's, and the Town of Wilson provided funds for its rent and support. Two years later the County appropriated funds and furnished quarters in a room on the second floor of the Court House, and free library service was offered to all residents of Wilson County. Expansion during the next decade caused the library to outgrow the Courthouse facilities. Wilsonians rallied behind passage of a special act of the N.C. Legislature in 1937 which authorized the Board of County Commissioners and the Board of Alderman of the Town of Wilson to appropriate non-tax funds to construct, support, and maintain a public library. Each committed \$17,500 and the fund was matched by an appropriation from the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Frank E. Benton, architect, was commissioned to draw plans for the building, and W.M. Jones was hired to construct it. The Wiggins lot, former site of the 1859 St. Austin's Institute, on the corner of Nash and Jackson streets was purchased.

The two-story Georgian-style library was completed in the fall of 1939 at a cost of \$76,556, which included the site and equipment. The new library began with only two paid staff members, Miss Nancy Gray, a professional librarian (formerly head of the Charles L. Coon High School library), and Mrs. W.M. Moss, who had served as librarian for seventeen years. Several WPA library workers helped reorganize, mend and catalog the book collection. When it opened its doors in October of 1939, the book collection numbered 5,000 volumes. In 1940 the Board of Trustees, in cooperation with the WPA Library Project sponsored a three-month bookmobile demonstration in the rural areas of the county. Thousands of rural readers who could not conveniently use the facilities of the main library have enjoyed books furnished by this extension of service. Permanent bookmobile service began in January 1941. In ten years the number of books increased to 25,000; in 1965 books in the main library, branches and bookmobiles totaled 52,000. An addition was completed in 1978, and another in 2005, doubling the size of the building to 44,000 square feet. Statistics for FY 2009-2010 reveal that the library currently boasts 212,269 books, 150 periodicals titles, 30 public-access computers, 6,238 DVDS and videos, and 1,597 books-on-CD. Five branch libraries and one bookmobile had a total circulation of 329,695 items last year, while 493 meetings were held and 302 library programs were provided.

While you're here, explore the John Harriss pen and ink collection and Louis Orr prints in the meeting rooms, learn how to research your family history, and purchase a copy of *Wilson, North Carolina Historic Buildings Inventory*, the architectural survey book, (in the Genealogy Room). Staff and volunteers will be available to discuss other resources available at this historic building.



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Wilson Reads 2011



Meet the Author:

Minrose Gwin

January 20, 2011, 7 PM

Wilson County Public Library Assembly Room

Popcorn and a Movie

To Kill a Mockingbird

Saturday, January 29, 2011

Two afternoon showings: 12-2:15, 3-5:15

Wilson County Public Library Assembly Room

Refreshments will be served.

What Scout and Florence Teach Us:

Race Relations & Family in

To Kill a Mockingbird and

The Queen of Palmyra

Presenter: Dr. Rebecca Godwin

February 1, 2011, 7 PM

The Sam and Marjorie Ragan Writing Center,

Barton College

All programs are free and open to the public.

*Sponsored by the Friends of the Wilson County Public Library, Barton College,
Wilson Community College, Wilson County Schools and The Wilson Times*